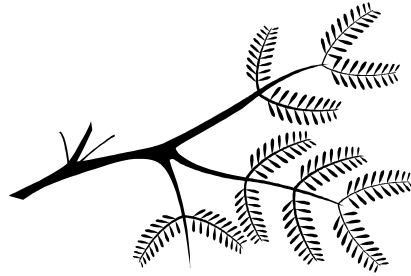


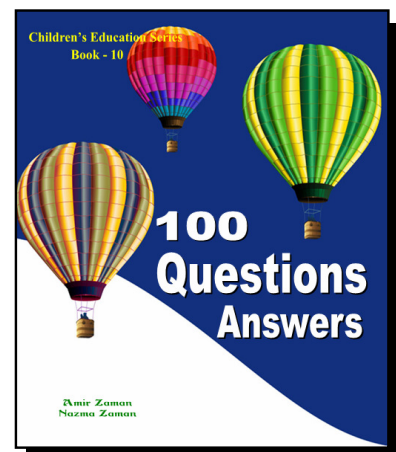
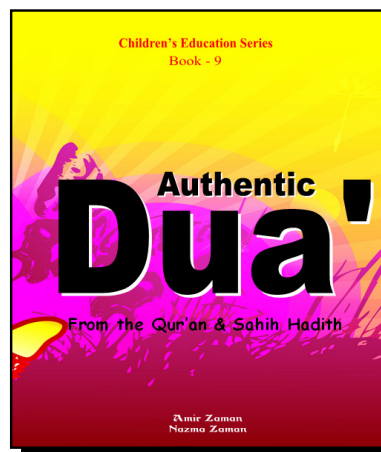
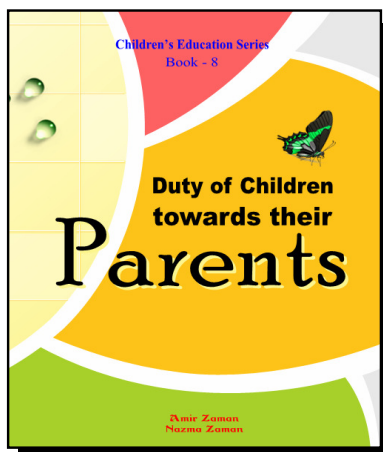
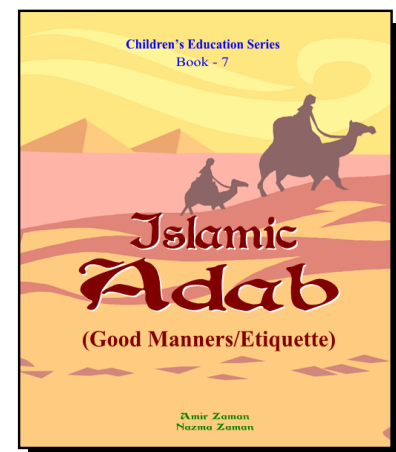
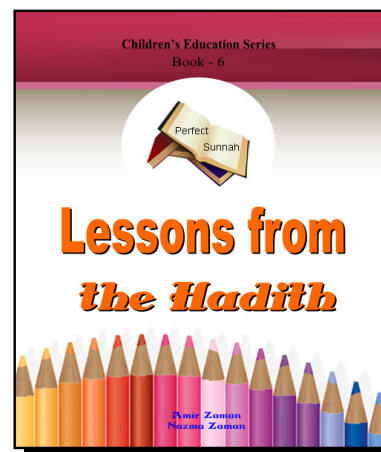
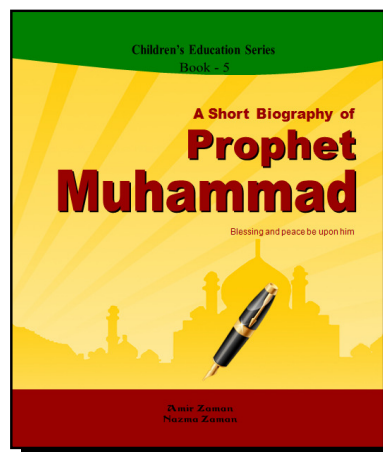
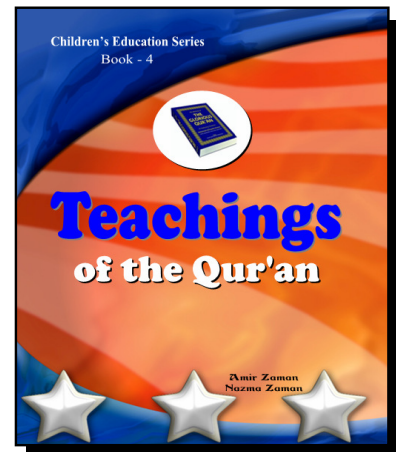
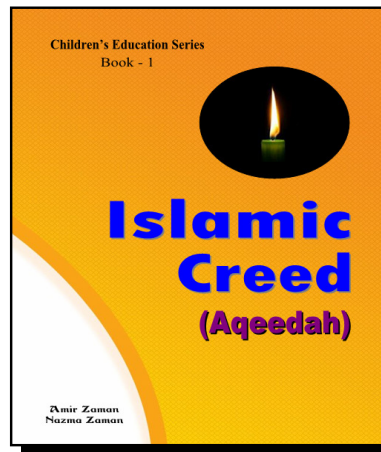
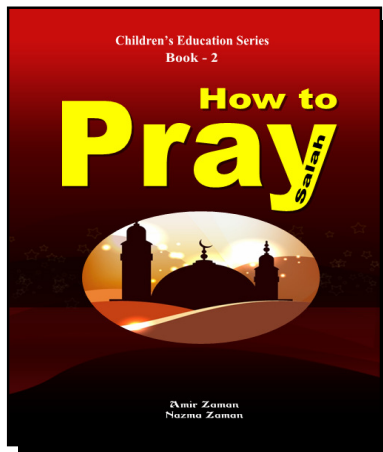
Children's Education Series  
Book - 3



**Let's learn about**  
**Taqwa**

Amir Zaman  
Nazma Zaman

# Children Education Series - Book 1 to 10



*"Assalamu-Alaikum" Peace be upon you*

**Amir Zaman**

**Nazma Zaman**

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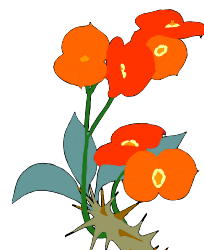
## Taqwa for Everyone

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ  
تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

*O you who believe! Fear Allah (by doing all that He has ordered and by abstaining from all that He has forbidden) as He should be feared. [Obey Him, be thankful to Him, and remember Him always], and do not die unless you are Muslims with complete submission to Allah.*

*(Surah Ale Imran 3: 102)*



## What is Taqwa?

**Taqwa is =**

Taqwa is an Arabic word. It is the state of heart that motivates virtuous conduct and prevents evil action.

Love of Allah

+

Fear of Allah



Taqwa (Self-restraint)

**Taqwa is the ability to safe-guard**



## Explanation of Taqwa

1. Fearing Allah in the context of Islam;
2. Allah-consciousness as the element of Taqwa;
3. Love of Allah in the context of Islam;
4. Specific acts that nourish Allah's love;
5. Actions that keep men away from Allah's love;
6. Benefits derived from having Taqwa.

## 1. Fearing Allah

- a. Fear of the punishment of Allah on the day of Judgement.
- b. Fear of the losing the blessings of Allah in our worldly life.
- c. To be afraid of displeasing Allah --the one who is most worthy of love.

## 2. Allah-consciousness

- a. The person who has Taqwa is one who is most conscious about the things that displease Allah.
- b. Allah-consciousness is the quality of being conscious of the presence of Allah at all times. The most Allah conscious person is one who is most pious. Islam therefore encourages Muslims to be pious in every aspect of life.

## 3. Love of Allah

- a. Love of Allah refers to man's necessary dependence on Allah ---the realization that he is not sufficient.

- b. True love of Allah is manifested in pure acts of worship.
- c. A Muslim is required to manifest this love by following Allah's Path and, if necessary, sacrificing some personal desires, property, time, and even in his life for the sake of Allah.
- d. According to a Hadith of the Prophet (pbuh): If a person loves Allah and His Messenger more than he loves anything else, he will have the sweet taste of faith in his heart.

(Note: pbuh - peace and blessings upon him (i.e. Prophet Muhammad))

*In addition, Allah will reciprocate his love (Sura Ale Imraan, 3 Verse 31: Say if you do love Allah, follow me, Allah will love you and forgive your sins. For Allah is off-forgiving and most merciful.)*

#### 4. Specific acts that nourish Allah's love

- a. Have Taqwa.
- b. Constantly repent to Allah.
- c. Engage in self-purification.
- d. Do good.

- e. Place trust in Allah.
- f. Be steadfast.
- g. Act with justice.

## 5. Actions that keep men away from Allah's love

- a. Aggression.
- b. Corruption and mischief.
- c. Ungratefulness.
- d. Rejection of faith.
- e. Oppression.
- f. Betrayal.
- g. Waste.
- h. Arrogance.

*Sura An-Nisa 4, verse 36: Allah loves not the arrogant, the vainglorious.*

## 6. Benefits derived from having Taqwa

Taqwa assists a man in his journey to the Hereafter through this earthly life to successful conclusion.



- a. He will receive Guidance from Allah.
- b. He will have proper vision, knowledge and wisdom.
- c. His affairs will be easier.
- d. He will receive forgiveness for his sins.
- e. He will receive mercy from Allah.
- f. He will achieve ultimate victory and bliss in this life and in the Hereafter.

*Allah (SWT) also said, Sura Al-Anfal, 8. verse 29: O you who believe; if you fear Allah, He will grant you a criterion, remove (all) evil deeds and forgive you for Allah is the Lord of grace unbound.*



# Enlightenment of Taqwa

Now that we have clarified how to achieve Taqwa, we define what the concept of Taqwa is. Taqwa means to cleanse or purify the heart and the soul. This fact is proven by some ayaat in Sura Ash-Shams in which Allah (SWT) says (what means):

*"By the sun and its brightness, by the moon as it follows it, by the day as it shows its brightness, by the night as it conceals it, by the heaven and its wondrous make, by the earth and all its expanse, and by the soul and He Who perfected it in proportion, then He showed it what is wrong for it and what is right for it — indeed he succeeds who purifies it, and he fails who corrupts it."*

*[Sura Ash-Shams 91:1-10].*

Note: SWT – Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala.

Allah begins this surah by taking seven oaths. Whenever Allah begins a surah or an ayaah with an oath, He (SWT) does so to bear witness to the fact that whatever follows this oath is very important and essential for us to understand. Therefore, we should pay very close attention to what is being said, and reflect upon its meanings. To clean one's heart and to purify the soul one must perform righteous actions that Allah has enjoined upon us, and our destruction lies in doing the actions that Allah has forbidden. As Allah is the Guardian and Protector of the Soul, we should do every good deed hoping for Allah's Mercy and fearing His Punishment, having full reliance and trust in Him (SWT).



# Purification of the Soul

Among the missions of the Prophet (pbuh), Allah sent him with the command to purify the souls of the Muslims in particular and of the mankind in general. Allah (SWT) says:

*"He it is who sent among the unlettered ones a Messenger from among themselves, reciting to them His ayaat, purifying them, and teaching them the Book and the Hikmah, while before they had been in error."*  
[Sura Al-Jumu'ah 62:2].

In this ayaah the word Hikmah is often translated as wisdom. Imaam ash-Shafi', one of the greatest scholars of Islaam, said that when Allah mentions Hikmah in the Qur'an, it refers to the Sunnah of the Prophet. In addition to this ayaah, we see that the Prophet was sent with three tasks:

- 1) To teach the Qur'aan.
- 2) To teach the Sunnah.

3) To show the means of purifying the soul.

This purification is obtained by doing the proper acts of 'ibaadah and by avoiding sins and disobedience.

In the context of worship and obedience, piety means purity of heart, spiritual profundity, and sincerity. In the context of refraining from what is unlawful, piety means being determined not to commit sins and to avoid doubtful things. The following may help in this regard:

1. Be alert to whatever may divert you from Allah.
2. Be alert to the carnal pleasures that may lead to the realm of the forbidden.
3. Ascribe all material and spiritual accomplishments to Allah.
4. Never consider yourself as higher and better than anyone else.
5. Long for Allah's pleasure and satisfaction in all affairs.
6. Renew the fountains of your Iman by studying and reflecting on Allah's creation.
7. Remember death, and live with the conscious knowledge that it may happen at any time.

In conclusion, Taqwa (piety) is the heavenly water of life, and a Muttaqi (pious) is the fortunate one who has found it. Only a few individuals have achieved the blessing of this attainment.



# Conditions for Attaining Taqwa

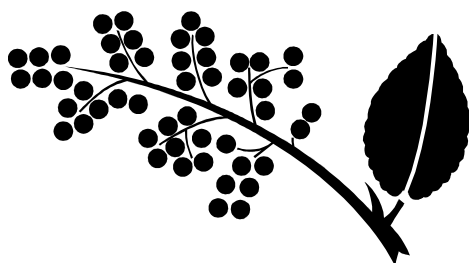
How does a person know that his acts of 'ibaadah are helping him to achieve taqwa? To develop taqwa, one must fulfill the following conditions:-

1. Ikhlaas, sincere intention that the act is performed purely for the pleasure of Allah, out of love for Him, while hoping for His reward and mercy, as well as fearing His anger and punishment if He is disobeyed.
2. To do the deed in accordance with the authentic Sunnah. To have the necessary knowledge of the 'ibaadah that is being performed. To know how the Prophet performed the action and proper times for the performance of that action.

Concerning Ikhlaas (sincerity), it must be present both before and after performing the deed, with no riyaa (showing off) or sum'ah (doing things to be seen or heard by people). For instance, after doing a good deed, someone tells

others, "Look at all the good I have been doing ", or "I'm such a marvelous person because I do such and such".

This formula, if used to achieve taqwa, is scientific, in that if you follow it, while fulfilling all of its conditions and their rights, you will achieve taqwa Insha Allah.





# **The Effect of Taqwa**

A person once asked the Prophet (SAW), "O Messenger of Allah! Give me some advice!" He replied, "I advise you to fear Allah because it is the head of everything."

The likeness of one who has the awareness of the reality of Allah's existence in every single act, in every single decision, in every single word and thought is the likeness of a dry, curled up desert plant that receives a drop of moisture, which will make it spread out its leaves and sink its roots and flourish and blossom.

Similarly, one who feels Allah in their heart at every breath they take and in every aspect of their lives and in everything they do, from the important and profound to the everyday, simple tasks becomes aware of the great thirst, the Great Dependence, and the great joy his/her life had been lacking without this devotion, without this urge to serve (the Creator). And with it, they strive for the

pleasure of their Lord, finding fulfillment and happiness in this world and the next.

## **Some benefits of Taqwa**

1. Taqwa is a means by which a believer performs righteous deeds and Taqwa causes the righteous deed to be accepted by Allah.

Allah says: "O you who believe! Have Taqwa (fear) of Allah and always speak the truth. He will direct you to do righteous and correct actions and will forgive you your sins and whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger has indeed attained a great achievement." [Sura Al-Ahzaab (33): 70-71]

2. Taqwa makes one deserving of Allah's Pleasure and Love. Allah says: "Verily, the most honorable of you in the Sight of Allah is that (believer) who has Taqwa." [Sura Al-Hujurat (49): 13]

and: "Whoever fulfills his pledge and has Taqwa of Allah much, then indeed, Allah loves those who are muttaqoon (those who possess Taqwa)." [Sura Aal-Imraan (3): 76]

3. Taqwa causes sins to be forgiven and increases rewards. Allah says: "And whoever fears Allah and keeps his duty to Him, He will remit his sins from him, and will enlarge his rewards." [Sura At-Talaaq (65): 5]
4. Taqwa keeps one steadfast on the Straight Path and protects him from deviation.

Allah says: "O you who believe! Have Taqwa of Allah. He will give you a Furqaan (criterion to judge between right and wrong)." [Sura Al-Anfaal (8): 29]

Imaam Ibn al-Katheer (rahimahullah) said in his Tafseer that 'Ibn Abbas, as-Sudde, Ikrimah, adh-Dahhak, Qataadah and Muqaatil, Ibn Huyyan, all said about 'Furqaan' that it means a way out (from difficulty).



# **The Sahabah's (RA)**

## **Comments**

1. **Abu Hurairah (radiyallahu anhu)** was asked about taqwa. So he asked the questioner whether he had trodden a thorn-infested path. The man said he had. Abu Hurairah asked how he walked on it. The man said: 'When I saw a thorn, I took evasive action, lest I was pricked by it.' Abu Hurairah answered him by saying: 'That is exactly what taqwa means (to take evasive action on seeing sin.)'
2. **Ali (radiyallahu anhu)** said, "Protect yourselves with your actions and protect your families by advising them".
3. **Ibn Abbas (radiyallahu anhu)** said, " 'As He is supposed to be feared', means that they strive in His path as they should: they do not care about any one criticising them and they establish justice even against their own kith and kin. The phrase 'and die not...' means they preserve Islam in both health and

sickness so that they are able to die in the state of it".

4. **Ali (radiyallahu anhu)** said, "Taqwa is to fear the Almighty; to act upon the Revelation; to be content with little and to prepare for the Day of Travel (A combination of all four qualities).
5. **Abu Darda (radiyallahu anhu)** said, "The complete form of taqwa is to fear Allah so much that one begins to fear Him from (the potential sin in) a mustard seed and until one leaves what might be halal in the fear that it could be haram. This is substantiated by the verse: 'So whoever does an atom's amount of good, he will see it; and whoever does an atom's amount of evil, he will see it.' So do not undermine any goodness and act upon goodness. Likewise, do not underestimate any evil and protect yourself from it".
6. **Ibn Abbas (radiyallahu anhu)** said, "The ones with taqwa are those believers who prevent themselves from shirk. He also said, "They are the ones who fear Allah's punishment for failing to follow what they know

to be guidance and hope for His mercy with regard that which they believe came from Him".

7. **Muadh ibn Jabal (radiyallahu anhu)** said, "On the Day of Judgement, it will be announced: 'Where are the ones who had taqwa?' So they (those ones with taqwa) will stand up from under the Shelter of The Compassionate. Allah will not be invisible to them" People asked Muadh, who are the ones with taqwa? He replied, "Those who stay away from shirk and worshipping idols and then purify their Deen for Allah".



# One Example of Taqwa

Love for  
Allah



Fear of  
Allah

**Taqwa (Final destination)**

Love for  
Allah

+

Fear of  
Allah

=

Taqwa

Flying with  
right wing

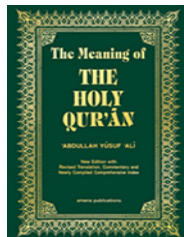
Flying with  
left wing

Reached the  
final  
destination  
with success

# Relationship between Taqwa & Siyam (Fasting)

## Why Fasting?

The goal of fasting is to develop  
Self-restraint (Taqwa)



*Holy Quran states: "O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, so that you may develop Taqwa (self-restraint) " [2:183]*

Example: God says about Mary in the Qur'an that she said: "Verily!, I have vowed a fast to the Most Beneficent...[Maryam 19:26].





## Benefits of Fasting in Islam:

How character-building is achieved...

Fasting

Taqwa (Self-restraint)



God-fearing nature

Afterlife Accountability

Patience

Self-control

Self-discipline

Responsibility

Obedience

Purification of soul



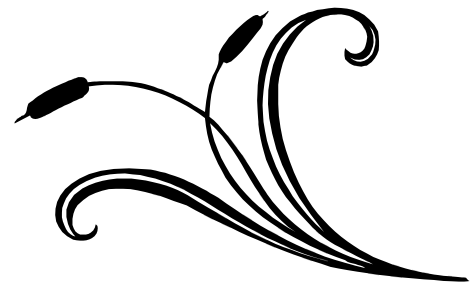
# Taqwa & Self-Development

## Annual Training for Character-building

Ramadan provides an annual training opportunity that is meant to fulfil the character-building needs for the rest of the year.



*Taqwa for  
11 month*



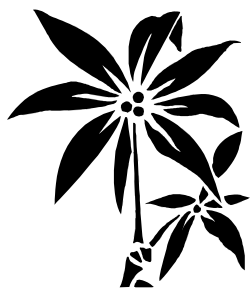
# How to achieve Taqwa?

Allah says:

*"O mankind! Worship your Lord, Who created you and those who were before you so that you may become al-Muttaqoon." (i.e., you may guard against evil) [Surah Al-Baqarah (2): 21]*

Thus, Taqwa is the fruit of Eebadah (worship) and can only be achieved by performing acts of Eebadah. Therefore we often find Allah mentioning Taqwa with Eebadah, He said regarding the fasts of Ramadaan:

*"O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may become muttaqoon (those who possess Taqwa)."*  
*[Surah Al-Baqarah (2): 183]*



# The Reality of Taqwa

## FIRST SECTION

1. Guidance, because of His words "guidance for the muttaqeen (the people of taqwa)";
2. Help because of His words "Truly, Allah is with the people who have taqwa";
3. Close friendship [with Allah] because of His words, "Allah is the close friend of the muttaqeen";
4. Love because of His words, "Truly, Allah loves the muttaqeen";
5. Covering over [of wrong actions] because of His words, "If you have taqwa of Allah, He will make for you a discrimination and He will cover over for you your wrong actions";
6. A way out from unhappiness, and provision from where one does not expect because of His words, "Whoever

has taqwa of Allah, He will make a way out for him and provide him from where he does not expect";

7. Facilitation of affairs because of His words, "Whoever has taqwa of Allah, He will make ease for him in his affair";
8. Full covering over of wrong actions and magnification of rewards because of His words, "Whoever has taqwa of Allah, He will cover over his wrong actions and magnify a reward for him";
9. Acceptance of actions because of His words, "Allah only accepts from the people of taqwa";
10. Success because of His words, "Have taqwa of Allah in order that you might succeed";
11. Good news because of His words "For them there is good news in this world and in the next";
12. Entrance into the Garden because of His words "Truly, there are for the people of taqwa with their Lord Gardens of bliss";

13. Salvation from the Fire because of His words "Then We will save the ones who had taqwa".

## **SECOND SECTION**

1. Fear of punishment in the next life;
2. Fear of punishment in this life;
3. Hope of worldly reward;
4. Hope of the reward of the next world;
5. Fear of the reckoning;
6. Shyness and bashfulness before the gaze of Allah, and this is the station of fearful watchfulness;
7. Showing gratitude for His blessings by obeying Him;
8. Knowledge, because of His words, "They only fear Allah, of His slaves, the ones who have knowledge";

9. Exalting and honoring His majesty, and it is the station of awe;
10. Sincerity in love.

### **THE THIRD SECTION**

1. That the slave should protect himself from kufr (covering over the truth), and that is the station of Islam;
2. That he should protect himself from acts of disobedience and forbidden things, and it is the station of turning or repentance (tawbah);
3. That he should protect himself from doubtful matters, and that is the station of caution or carefulness (wara');;
4. That he should protect himself from even those things that are permitted, and that is the station of doing without (zuhd);

5. That he should protect himself from the presence of other than Allah in his heart and it is the presence of witnessing.





## **Signs of those who acquired Taqwa**

1. Guarding the tongue from backbiting due to the saying of the Most High: "Do not backbite one another." [Sura Al-Hujurat, 49:12]
2. Shunning suspicion due to the saying of the Most High: "Avoid much [negative] assumption. Indeed, some assumption is sin." [Sura Al-Hujurat, 49:12] And also due to the saying of the Messenger, sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam, "Avoid suspicion, for airing suspicion is the most lying form of speech." [Musnad Ahmad]
3. Shunning mockery due to the saying of the Most High: "Let not a people ridicule another people; perhaps they may be better than them." [Sura Al-Hujurat, 49:11]
4. Lowering gaze from forbidden things due to the saying of the Most High: "Tell the believing men to lower their gaze." [Sura An-Nur, 24:30]

5. Truthfulness of the tongue due to the saying of the Most High: "And when you speak, be just." [Sura Al-Anam, 6:152]
6. Recognizing the blessings of Allah the Most High upon oneself in order to avoid conceitedness due to the saying of the Most High: "Rather, Allah has conferred favor upon you that He has guided you to the faith, if you should be truthful." [Sura Al-Hujurat, 49:17]
7. Spending one's wealth on good rather than bad things, due to the saying of the Most High: "And those who, when they spend, do so not excessively or sparingly." [Sura Al-Furqan, 25:67] Meaning, they do not spend on sinfulness and do not prevent obedience, "but are ever, between that, [justly] moderate." [Sura Al-Furqan, 25:67]
8. Not seeking haughtiness and pride for oneself, due to the saying of the Most High: "That home of the Hereafter We assign to those who do not desire exaltedness upon the earth or corruption." [Sura Al-Qasas, 28:83]

9. Maintaining with care the five prayers on time, with proper bowing and prostration, due to the saying of the Most High: "Maintain with care the [obligatory] prayers and [in particular] the middle [Asr] prayer and stand before Allah, devoutly obedient." [Sura Al-Baqarah, 2:238]
10. Steadfastness upon the way of Sunnah and Jama`ah, due to the saying of the Most High: "And, this is My Path, which is straight, so follow it; and do not follow [other] ways, for you will be separated from His way. This has He instructed you that you may become righteous." [Sura Al-Anam, 6:153]



# The End

